EY MES. S. S. PERRY. Two little pairs of boots, to-night.

Before the fire are drying,
Two little pairs of three feet
In a trundle bed are lying;
The tracks they left upon the floor
Make me teel much like sighing.

Those little boots with copper toes ! They ran the livelong day!
And oftentimes I almost wish
The they were miles away!
So tired I am to hear so oft

Their heavy tramp at play. They walk about the new-plonghed ground, Where mud in plenty lies, They roll it up in marbles round,

Then bake it into pies; and then at night upon the floor In every shape it dries. To-day I was disposed to scold;
But when I look to-night,
At those little boots before the fire,
With copper toes so bright,
I think how sad my heart would be,
To put them cut of sight.

For in a trunk, up stairs, I've laid Two socks of white and blue; If called to put those boots away. O God! what should I do? I mourn that there are not to-night, Three pairs instead of two.

I mourn because I thought how nice My neighbor, "across the way," Could keep her carpets, all the year, From setting worn or grey; Yet well I know she'd smile to own

me little boots to-day! We mothers weary get and worn, Over our load of care; But how we speak of those little ones, Let each of us beware; For what would our firesides be to-night,

If no little boots were there?

A COLONY OF JEWS IN THE HEART OF CHINA.

Early Inquiries-Mohammedans in Kaifung-Destruction of the Synagogue-Distressed Condition of th ePeople-Decay and Threatened Extinction. PEKIN, China, June, 1866.- The city of Kai-

tung-ice, the capital of Honan, is famous as an ancient capital of the empire, and the scene of of stirring events in the history of China. To the Christian world, however, it possesses a deeper interest as the residence of a Jewish colony.

They were discovered by the celebrated Father Ricci; and early in the seventeenth century, full inquiries concerning their usages and manuscripts were made by Jesuit missionaries, who resided in that city. In 1850 a deputation of native Christians was sent among them by the Bishop of Victoria and the late Dr. Medhurst. Two of the Jews were induced to go to Shanghai, and some of their Hebrew MSS. obtained; but up to the date of my journey, for more than a century and a half, they had not, so far as we are informed, been visited by any European. It became, therefore, a matter of interest to ascertain their present condition; and, as I remarked in my last letter, this was the chief considera-tion that induced me to make Kai-fung-fee a point in the course of my inland travels. What others may have published I shall not repeat; but concisely as possible lay before you a review of my own observations.

Arriving in this city on the 12th of E.

Arriving in this city on the 17th of February, I inquired for the Jewish synagogue, but getting no satisfactory answer, I went for information to a Mohammedan mosque, of which there

the murti; and the advent of a stranger from the West who was beneved to be a worshipper of the "true Lord" soon attracted a large concourse of the faithful. At the request of the muiti, holding a New Testament in my hand, I addressed them in relation to the contens of the Holy Book of Jesus, whose name he pro-novnced with great respect, as that of the most illustrious of their prophets, Mahomet, of course, excepted.

The Jews he denounced as Kafirs, and evinced no very poignant sorrow when he informed me that their synagogue had come to desolation "It was," he assured me, "utterly demolished and the people who had worshipped there scat-tered abroad." "Then," said I, "I will go and see the spot on which it stood;" and directing the bearers of my sedan to proceed to the plac-indicated by the multi, I passed through street crowded with curious specta ors until 1 cam to an open square, in the centre of which ther stood a solitary stone. On one side was an In scription commemorating the erection of the synagogue in the reign of the Sung dynasty, A D. 1163; and referring the first arrival of the Jews in China to the dynasty of Hon, B. C. 200. A D 200. 200-A. D. 200 .

On the other side was a record of its rebuilding in the dynasty of Ming, about three hundred years ago, but in addition to these inscriptions it bore an unwritten record of decay and ruin; it was inscribed with Ichabod, "The glory is de-

Standing on the pedestal, and resting my right hand on the head of that stone which was to be a silent witness of the truths I was about to utter, I explained to the congregated multi-tude my reasons for "taking pleasure in the last thereof."

I then inquired if there were any of the or among my heaters. "I am one," responded a young man, whose face corroborated his assortion, and then another and another stepped for ward, until I saw before me representatives of six of the seven families into which the colony

is now divided.

There, on this melancholy spot, where the very foundations of the synasogue had been torn from the ground, and there no longer re-mained one stone upon another, they confessed mained one stone upon another, they contessed to me with shame and grief that their "holy and beautiful house" had been demolished by their own hands. It had long been in a rainous condition—they had no money to repair the breaches of the sanctuary. They had lost all knowledge of the sacred tongue, the traditions of the fathers were no longer handed down, and their ritual worship had ceased to be observed. In this state of things they had yielded to the pressure of necessity, and disposed of the timbers and stones of that venerable entities to obtain relief for their bodily wauts.

In the evening some of them came to my

In the evening some of them came to my lodgings, bringing for my inspection a roll of the law; and the next day, the Christian Sabthe law; and the next day, the Christian Sab-bath, they repeated their visit, listening atten-tively to all I had to say concerning the rela-tions of the Law of Moses to the Gospel of Christ. They were very ignorant, but answered, as far as they were able, my inquiries in regard to their past history and present state. Two of them appeared in official costume, one wearing a gilt and the other a crystal ball on the top of his cap; but far from sustaining the general character of their people for thrift they number among them none that are rich; and few who are not pinched by poverty. Some andeed, true to their hereditary instincts, are employed in a small way in banking establishments (the first small way in banking establishments (the first man I saw was a money-changer), others keep fruit-stores and cake-shops, drive a business in

old clothes, or pursue various ha dieralts, while a few find employment in military service. The prevalence of rebellion in the Central Provinces for the last thirteen years has told Provinces for the last thirteen years has told sadly on the prosperity of Kallung-fee; and the Jews have not unlikely, owing to the nature of their occupations, been the greatest sufferers. Their number they estimate, though not very exactly, at from two to four hundred. They are unable to trace their tribal pedigree, keep no register, and never, on any occasion, assemble together as one congregation.

Until recently they had a common centre in ton yenerated synagogue, though their liturg cal errice had long been discontinued. Now, however, the congregation seems to be following the fate of their building. No bond of Union re-

mains, and they are in danger of being speedily

one or mem, to my ior his sacerdotal name, the characters Fen which signify "One who is rooted and grounded in the Truth." The large tablet that once adorned the entrance of the synacogue, bearing on it the name of Israel, his been appropriated by a Mahommedan mosque, and some efforts by a Mahommedan mosque, and some efforts have been made to draw the people over to the faith or Mahomes, from which their practices differ so little that their heathen neighbors have never been able to distinguish them from Moslems.

One of my visitors was a son of the last of their rights are constraints.

their rabbis, who, some thirty or forty years ago, died in the province of Kansuh. With him perished the knowledge of the sacred tongue, and though they still proserve several copies of the Jewish scriptures, there is not a man among them who can read a word of Hebrew. Not long ago it was seriously proposed to ex-pose their parchments to public view in the market-place, in hopes they might attract the attention of some wandering Jew, who would be able to restore to them the language of their tathers. Since the cessation of their ritual worship their children all grow up without the seal of the covenant. The young generation are uncircumcised, and, as might be expected, they no longer take pains to keep their blood pure from intermixture with Gentiles. One of them confessed to me that his wife was a neathen. They remember the names of the Feast of Taberna-cles, the Feast of unleavened Bread, and a tew other ceremonial rites which were practised by a former generation, but all such usages are now neglected, and the next half century is not unlikely to put a period to their existence as a

distinct people.

In the margin of the Poyang Lake stands a lotty rock, so peculiar and so solitary that it is known by the name of the Little Orphan. Its kindred rocks are all on the other side of the lake, whence it seems to have been torn away by some violent convulsion, and planted immovably in the bosom of the waters. Such, to me, appeared that fragment of the Israelish nation. A rock rent from the sides of Mount Zion by some great national catastrophe, and projected into this central plain of China, it stands there an "orphan" colony, sublime in its antiquity and solitude. But it is now on the verge of being swallowed up by the surround-ing flood, and the spectacle is a mourful one. The Jews themselves are deeply conscious of their sad situation, and the shadow of an inevi-

table destiny seems to be resting upon them. Poor, unhappy people! As they inquired about the destruction of the Holy City, and the dispersion of the tribes, and referred to their own decaying condition, what could I do to comfort them but point to Him who is the consolation of Israel? True, I told them, the city of their fathers was broken down, and their nearly seathers as the consolation of the city of their fathers was broken down, and their people scattered and peered, but the straw was not trodden under foot until it had yielded prectous seed for disseminating in other fields. The dykes had not been broken down until the time had come for pouring their fertilizing waters over the face of the earth. Christian civinzation, with all its grand results, had spring from a Jewish root, and the promise to Abraham been already julilled, that "in his seed all the nations of the earth should be blessed."—N. Y.

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Specifications will be printed immediately, and deposited at these several places.

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M. C. MEIGS. Quartermas er-Gene al, Brevet Major-General. 10 12 180 DROPOSALS FOR STATIONERY .-

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tors of Internal Revenu throughout that portion of the United States lying east of the Rocky Mountains, with SIAT ONERY for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867, and until the lateray of January, 1867, for supplying the Assessors and Collectors west of the Rocky Mountains.

Bidders may obtain a schedule of articles to be furnished, with conditions under which such articles are to be delivered, upon application to any Assessor or Collector, or to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Lo proposals will be entertained from parties who are not regular manufacturers or dealers in the articles bid for, nor will proposals be considered unless accompanied by satisfactory guarantees that the contract will, if awarded, be faithfully executed. cuted.

Bids which contain prices less than the fair cost of the articles will be considered fraudulent and re-

jec ed.

The Two Hundred and Forty Collection Districts are distributed into Five Departments, as shown by the schedule furnished, and each proposal must name the Bepariment it is proposed to The Commissioner reserves the right to reject any bids or parts of tids which the int rest of the Government may require. The bids should be addressed to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, endorsed "Troposals for supplying Stationery to Internal bevenue Officers."

E. A. ROLLINS,

10 24 wfm tno14 GOVERNMENT SALES.

RMY BLANKET S,-Assistant Quartermaster's Office,
Philadelphia October 22 1866.

Will be offered for saie at Public Auction, on account of the United States, at the Schuylkill Arsenal, Grav's terry road, Philadelphia, Pa., on MONDAY, the 5th of November next, commencing at 12 o'clock M.

DAY the 5th of November Bext, commencing at 12 o'clock M.,
FIFTY THOUSAND (MORE OR LESS) UNITED STATES ARMY BLANKE'S,
new and in good condition. Samples can be seen at the Schuyikili Aisena, and at this office.

ALSO,
5198 pairs BUCK KIN G-OVES,
2649 - WOOLLEN MITTENS.
TERMS OF SALE—Cash in Government funds.
Purchasers must remove the property within five da. s after the purchase.
The Blankets wilf be delivered in bales of 50 each.
G. H. CROSMAN,
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